In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 10-12 as indicated and add new claims 14-21.

1. (Previously amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of growth hormone, wherein said amount is effective to reduce blood pressure in said mammal.

2. (Previously amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of a growth hormone selected from the group consisting of human growth hormone, bovine growth hormone, rat growth hormone or porcine growth hormone.

3. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

4. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal is an adult mammal.

5. (Original) A method as claimed claim 4 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

6. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said growth hormone is human growth hormone.

7. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the growth hormone is administered to the mammal in combination with a second anti-hypertensive agent.

8. (Previously amended) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse postnatal environment, the method comprising the step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone in the mammal, wherein said step of increasing is sufficient to decrease blood pressure.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

10. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of the growth hormone, is increased through administration of an agent which either stimulates production of growth hormone or which lessens or prevents inhibition of growth hormone activity.

11. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of growth hormone is increased through direct administration of growth hormone.

12. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

13. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said second anti-hypertensive agent is an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor is quinapril.

15. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering a growth hormone releasing peptide (GHRP).

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said GHRP is selected from the group consisting of GHRP-1, GHRP-2, GHRP-6, hexarelin, G-7039, G7502,L-692,429, L-692,585 and L-163,191.

17. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH).

18. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering an inhibitor of a growth hormone antagonist.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said inhibitor is somatostatin release inhibitor factor.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dose of said growth hormone is in the range of
about 0.1 μg/kg/day to
about 1 mg/kg/day.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said blood pressure is systolic blood pressure.